

The background of the entire page is a stylized American flag. The stars are white and arranged in a grid on the left side, while the stripes are red and white, flowing diagonally from the top right to the bottom left.

National Day of Panhandling for Reparations October 10, 2007

KIT

Everything You Need to Participate in the
National Day of Panhandling for Reparations

- **Project Statement**
- **How to Participate**
- **FAQ and Answers**
- **“Reparations Accepted Here” Sign**
- **Receipts for payments Collected and Paid**
- **Flags to Put Anywhere and Everywhere**

Print one out for you and for a friend. Spread them
around, email it, post it, copy it, distribute it.

**Passerby: What are you doing out here? Is this some
kind of statement or protest or something?**

**damali ayo: I’m just getting the job done,
just getting it done.**

for more information please visit <http://damaliayo.com>

National Day of Panhandling for Reparations

Today...

People all across the United States are taking an hour or two to sit in a range of locations in their communities: outside of businesses, libraries, museums, art galleries, or on busy street corners. We wear signs reminding passersby of the history of slavery in the United States. We collect reparations in the form of money from white Americans for the enslavement and free-labor of Africans and African Americans during the establishment and economic rise of this country. This money is immediately paid out to black passersby. Both parties are offered a receipt. We do this to offer a convenient opportunity for American citizens to acknowledge, apologize and compensate the unpaid labor of African Americans, the travesty of slavery, and the rightful due of reparations.

This work began in 2003 as a street performance by artist damali ayo. In ***living flag: panhandling for reparations*** she panhandled for reparations on the streets of various cities across the United States. October 10, 2007 began the annual **National Day of Panhandling for Reparations** where others join damali by this performance to their communities. We plan to continue to offer this service to citizen's annually until the government puts a reparations program in place.

Passerby: What are you doing out here, is this some kind of statement or protest or something?

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National Day of Panhandling for Reparations

FAQ: You will be asked many questions as you panhandle for reparations.

Here are some frequently asked questions and some suggestions for answers.

Q: Why panhandling?

A: African Americans have tried several means to recoup reparations for the enslavement of our relatives, with little progress. Panhandling shows the last resort of African Americans after our government has ignored or denied all previous requests for reparations. Panhandling is a more immediate means of exacting reparations. We offer ordinary citizens the opportunity to pay the reparations our government has denied us, or to walk past our presence on the street and continue to ignore our collective history. What choice will you make?

Q: Why are you paying only African Americans when so many groups in this country are owed reparations?

A: This performance is specifically geared toward collecting the reparations due African Americans. Some other groups in this country have received reparations already. For those that haven't I will be happy to support their cause when the time comes.

Q: My ancestors didn't come here until after slavery was outlawed, why should I have to pay?

A: Debts left unpaid by your relatives are passed on to you. Not related to slave holders? Oh, well. this country's economic success was built on the labor of enslaved Africans and African Americans. This economic success, post-civil war, was rightfully taken by the freed blacks in the form the land, property and participation in the government they had worked to maintain and grow. The government took back this rightful inheritance and gave it to white people and it has not yet been evenly distributed to African Americans. The fruits of our labor is still disproportionately in the hands of white Americans, including you.

Q: You aren't black. Why are you panhandling for reparations?

A: I believe in the cause of reparations and am doing my part to get the job done.

Q: Slavery what is the past, why can't you just get over it?!

A: I'll get over it as soon as the country as a whole does.

Q: How much do you want to collect- how do you put a price on that?

A: I'm not here to calculate costs. I'll leave that to the economists. I'm here to offer citizens a convenient way to participate in the reparations process since our government has not yet made a service available to people who would like to pay reparations.

Q: What are you going to do with the money?

A: I will pay it out to African Americans as they pass by. If you'd like to wait, you can make your payment directly to someone or see how I do it.

Q: What should I do with this reparation you just paid me?

A: I suggest you put it in an interest bearing account. Some people choose to frame theirs.

Q: Where did this money come from?

A: A white person gave it to me as a payment for reparations.

Q: Don't you think that the money should go to programs that help African Americans instead of going to rich people, or people who will just spend it on material things?

A: The point of reparations is to redress past wrongs. African Americans, regardless of their current economic status are all due reparations. The wrong was committed to individual members of a population and must be redressed to the descendents of this population.

Q: Is this some kind of political protest?

A: I'm just getting the job done.

Q: How do you know which black people are descended from slaves to pay them out?

A: Many African American people have maintained an oral history of their family and know whether or not they are descended from slaves. Those that are not, often turn down the reparations payment.

Q: I'm half black and half white, what do I do, pay myself?

A: Sure why not? If you'd like, you can give me a reparations payment and I'll give it right back to you. Would you like a receipt?

National Day of Panhandling for Reparations

Performance Instructions

- ★ Make a sign reminding passersby of the history of slavery in the United States. Keep it simple. Suggestions: “200+ years of slavery in the united states” “Reparations Accepted Here” Make your sign out of scrap material in your own handwriting. It’s been documented that panhandlers with hand made signs on tattered cardboard collect more money than those with clean printed signs.
- ★ Pack the things you need: Your sign. A can to collect money in. Your receipts and a pen to fill them out as you collect and pay. You might also want a cushion to sit on. The ground gets hard after a while.
- ★ Ask a partner to take photos or video of you and your interactions. This person will also keep an eye on your safety. If you work with a partner who also wants to panhandle you can switch roles half way through the experience. **DO NOT DO THIS PERFORMANCE ALONE.**
- ★ Choose a safe location in your community: outside of businesses, libraries, museums, art galleries, or on busy street corners. Pick a location that does not interfere with the work of other panhandlers.
- ★ Start your time by giving your own money to other panhandlers in the area you have chosen. as a gesture of respect for the part of their lives you are borrowing for your performance.
- ★ Set up, sit down and get comfortable. Relax. Be patient. Expect nothing, be open to anything.
- ★ Collect reparations in the form of money from white Americans. Pay this money to black Americans. Offer both parties a receipt. If you like, you can say, "Reparations accepted here" or "Do you want to pay some reparations," or say nothing at all. Do not be confrontative or argumentative this performance is about being a noticeable presence, not being aggressive..
- ★ Do not collect reparations from Native Americans, Asian Americans, Hawaiian Americans, Arab Americans, or Latino Americans. These folks have their own reparations to collect. Smile at them and wish them a good day. Though we support the causes of these populations, please limit your payments out to African Americans. This is a very specific performance.
- ★ Be prepared for people to ask you questions. Feel free to respond by handing them a flyer/statement (included here) or by explaining the National Day of Panhandling for Reparations to them yourself. Common questions asked are covered in the FAQ in this kit. Spend some time beforehand answering these questions for yourself so you are prepared to answer them for someone else. You can view my video on my web site to see how I answered some of these questions during my experiences.
- ★ Send your panhandling photos and write emails to damali [damaliayo@gmail.com please note this email is for reparations photos and emails only] and tell her stories from your experience. She'll share these with her network of over 3000 people. The best photo wins a presentation from damali in your community.
- ★ **Other fun additions to the performance:** Tape an American flag over your mouth. Wear red, white and blue, or red, black and blue. Sport the Flag. Audiotape or videotape your experiences. Take pictures. Keep track of money received and paid out. Get your kids to help you. Teach kids that pass by about reparations. Pass out your own info on reparations. Wear some "reparations gear" on damdliayo.com

for more information please visit <http://reparationsday.com>

reparations
accepted
HERE

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National Day of Panhandling for Reparations

- RECEIPT -

Name _____

Has **PAID** \$ _____ toward the amount owed in reparations for the enslavement and slave-labor of Africans and African Americans in the United States of America.

Collected by _____ on (date) _____

Thank you for acknowledging your debt.

National Day of Panhandling for Reparations

is brought to you by damali ayo. now art. <http://damaliayo.com>

National Day of Panhandling for Reparations

- RECEIPT -

Name _____

Has **RECEIVED** \$ _____ toward the amount owed in reparations for the enslavement and slave-labor of Africans and African Americans in the United States of America.

Distributed by _____ on (date) _____

Apologies from a citizen, on behalf of the nation.

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